

Murray et al. S.N. 09/869,563

THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended). A method for removably locating an electrical circuit interrupter into a pre-moulded polymeric insulating housing, said pre-moulded polymeric insulating housing including a locating cavity of pre-determined shape, wherein said electrical circuit interrupter may be replaced, if required, after insertion into said pre-moulded polymeric insulating housing, said method comprising the steps of:

~~forming, on an exterior surface of a circuit interrupter~~ at least one polymeric sleeve of predetermined shape on the exterior surface of an electrical circuit interrupter to define a polymeric ensleeved electrical circuit interrupter;

inserting said polymeric ensleeved electrical circuit interrupter ~~with attached said at least one sleeve~~ into a said locating cavity of pre-determined shape in said pre-moulded polymeric insulating housing for engagement with at least one wall of said locating cavity; and,

mechanically releasably securing ~~therewithin~~ said polymeric ensleeved electrical circuit interrupter in said locating cavity in said pre-moulded polymeric insulating housing with attached said at least one sleeve whereby said polymeric ensleeved electrical circuit interrupter is retained in said pre-moulded polymeric insulating housing or, if desired thereafter, may be unsecured therefrom and replaced.

Claim 2 (currently amended). A method for removably locating an electrical circuit interrupter into a pre-moulded polymeric insulating housing as claimed in claim 1 wherein said ~~at least one~~ step of forming said polymeric sleeve on the exterior surface of an electrical circuit interrupter further comprises the step of moulding is-moulded said polymeric sleeve directly on-to onto an exterior surface of said electrical circuit interrupter.

Claim 3 (currently amended). A method for removably locating an electrical circuit interrupter into a pre-moulded polymeric insulating housing as claimed in claim 1

Murray et al. S.N. 09/869,563

wherein said step of forming said polymeric sleeve on the exterior surface of an electrical circuit interrupter further comprises the steps of at least one sleeve may be preformed pre-forming said polymeric sleeve and subsequently attached to an attaching said sleeve onto the exterior surface of said electrical circuit interrupter.

Claim 4 (currently amended). A method for removably locating an electrical circuit interrupter into a pre-moulded polymeric insulating housing as claimed in claim 2 wherein said step of moulding said polymeric sleeve directly onto an exterior surface of said electrical circuit interrupter further comprises the step of at least one sleeve is moulded by a casting process with casting a flowable curable polymeric composition.

Claim 5 (currently amended). A method for removably locating an electrical circuit interrupter into a pre-moulded polymeric insulating housing as claimed in claim 4 wherein said at least one polymeric sleeve is comprised of comprises an elastomeric material.

Claim 6 (currently amended). A method for removably locating an electrical circuit interrupter into a pre-moulded polymeric insulating housing as claimed in claim 1 wherein said polymeric sleeve extends over at least part of the axial length of the exposed said exterior surface of said electrical circuit interrupter.

Claim 7 (currently amended). A method for removably locating an electrical circuit interrupter into a pre-moulded polymeric insulating housing as claimed in claim 1 wherein said at least one polymeric sleeve extends over one or more at least one circumferential regions region between opposed ends of the surface of said electrical circuit interrupter.

Claim 8 (currently amended). A method for removably locating an electrical circuit interrupter into a pre-moulded polymeric insulating housing as claimed in claim 1

Murray et al. S.N. 09/869,563

wherein said step of mechanically releasably securing said polymeric ensleeved electrical circuit interrupter is ~~mechanically secured~~ within said locating cavity by frictional engagement further comprises the step of frictionally fitting between said at least one polymeric sleeve and to an inner wall surface of said locating cavity.

Claim 9 (original). A method for removably locating an electrical circuit interrupter into a pre-moulded polymeric insulating housing as claimed in claim 1 wherein said electrical circuit interrupter includes a screw threaded terminal of a fixed switch contact, and wherein said step of mechanically releasably securing said polymeric ensleeved electrical circuit interrupter within said locating cavity further comprises the steps of extending ~~is mechanically secured in said cavity by axial tension applied by a screw threaded fastener through extending via an aperture in a base of said locating cavity into threaded engagement with said~~ ~~to a screw threaded terminal of a fixed switch contact by said interrupter.~~

Claims 10-18 (cancelled).

Claim 19 (withdrawn). A method of assembly of an insulating housing for electrical equipment, said method comprising the steps of:-

securing over a spigot-like coupling member of an insulating housing element a layer of flexible polymeric material;

inserting into a socket-like coupling member of an insulating housing element said spigot-like coupling member; and,

securing together said spigot-like coupling member and said socket-like coupling member under axial tension to induce radial compression of said layer of flexible polymeric material.

Claim 20 (withdrawn). A method as claimed in claim 19 wherein one or more cavities are formed in an outer surface of said spigot-like member and/or an inner

Murray et al. S.N. 09/869,563

surface of said socket-like member to accommodate, in use, differential thermal expansion between said coupling members and said layer of flexible polymeric material.

Claim 21 (withdrawn). A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein said socket like member is heated before securing to said spigot-like coupling member whereby axial thermal contraction of said socket-like member occurs upon cooling.

Claim 22 (withdrawn). A method of coupling housing elements of an insulating housing for electrical equipment, said method comprising the steps of:-

forming complementary frusto-conical surfaces on respective socket and spigot coupling members of housing elements to be coupled;

establishing a temperature differential between a housing element having a socket coupling member and a housing element having a spigot coupling member whereby said socket coupling member undergoes thermal expansion relative to said spigot coupling member; and,

coupling said socket and spigot coupling members and allowing the temperature differential therebetween to dissipate whereby frictional engagement is achieved between respective housing elements with said spigot coupling element under radial compression and said socket coupling under circumferential tension.

Claim 23 (withdrawn). A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein said complementary frusto-conical surfaces are formed by machining.

Claim 24 (withdrawn). A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein said complementary frusto-conical surfaces are formed by grinding.

Claim 25 (withdrawn). A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein the complementary frusto-conical surfaces of respective socket and spigot members are lapped together using a lapping compound.

Murray et al. S.N. 09/869,563

Claim 26 (withdrawn). A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein the taper angle of the complementary frusto-conical surfaces is from 0.5° to an angle less than the angle of friction for the respective surfaces.

Claim 27 (withdrawn). A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein the temperature differential between the socket and spigot coupling elements is in the range of from 20°C to 100°C.

Claim 28 (withdrawn). A method as claimed in claim 25 wherein the temperature differential is in the range of from 50°C to 80°C.

Claim 29 (withdrawn). An electrical switching device incorporating a circuit interrupter according to the method of claim 1.

Claim 30 (withdrawn). An electrical switching device removably incorporating a circuit interrupter according to the method of claim 10.

Claim 31 (withdrawn). An insulating housing for an electrical switching device whenever assembled according to the method of claim 19.

Claim 32 (withdrawn). An insulating housing for an electrical switching device whenever assembled according to the method of claim 20.